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THE

PLOTTER

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MEETING

The OCTOBER meeting will be:

on: FRI., OCTOBER 10, 1986
at: 7:30 P.M.
in: COMMUNITY ROOM
    FAR WEST FEDERAL S & L
    OREGON CITY SHOPPING CENTER

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WHAT YOU WILL FIND IN THIS ISSUE-

COMPUTING THE FUTURE--
IN CLACKAMAS COUNTY
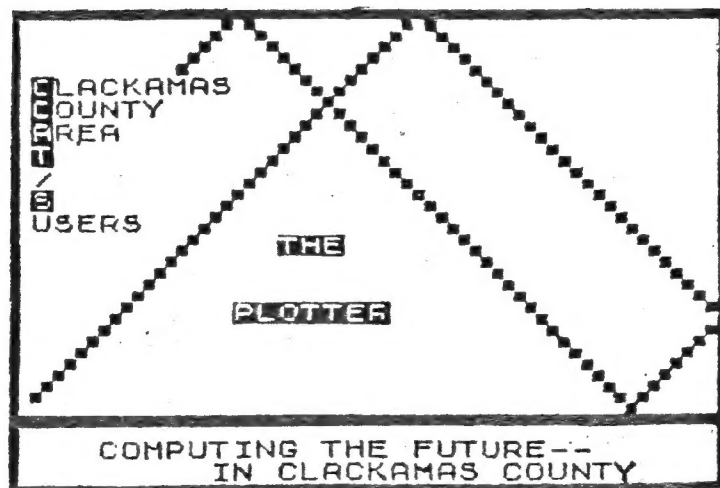
Chairmans' Corner

Looks like a lot of you have taken a vacation from computing this summer. The attendance was a little light last meeting. I am looking forward to seeing all of you at the next meeting.

Most of you have heard about the Sinclair sellout to Amstrad. I have not liked the comments Amstrad are making concerning the future of our computers.

I think that our user groups will be much more important to us now. I would not be surprised to see support of the Sinclair begin to decline in England.

This means your only support in a few years will be the user groups. Come to the meetings, ask questions, give suggestions, or just sit and listen. We all need each others ideas to get the most use out of our computers.

See ya on October 10th.
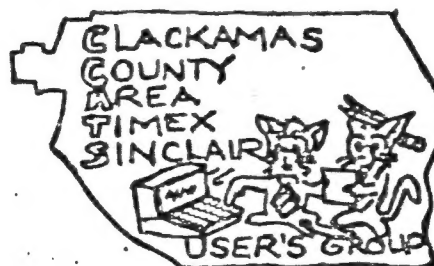
Secretarys' Secrets

The meeting was opened at 7:55PM.

New guests were introduced and welcomed. There were four new guests and several members we have not seen for a while in attedance.

The usual reminders of refreshments and return of library materials were given.

Treasury and membership reports were given by Rod Gowen.

Old business discussions centered on the need for a librarian and SIGs. It was announced that there had not been a commitment from anyone for the librarians position. The SIGs discussion started with the old SIG on machine code and progressed into a discusion of all the various possibilities for SIGs. The discussion was tabled for next meeting and members were encouraged to bring their ideas and interests with them. In connection with the MC SIG, it was announced that Zilog manuals can be obtained locally from:

    Northwest Marketing Assoc.
    6975 S.W. Sandburg Rd. #330
    Tigard, Ore 97223
    Phone 620-0441

Also under old business, the Time Designs picnic was discussed and it was decided the picnic was a huge success. (TDM has committed to hold another picnic next year)

New business anouncements were that the november meeting could not be held on the usual date. A motion was entered, seconded and passed without a disenting vote, to hold the meeting on november 7th. Also, D. S. Lewis announced the next swap meet to be 10/18 at the Tigard Community Center, near the fire station. The Plotter was discussed and our editor asked for submissions. All members are asked to send something, hints, tips, programs, etc. to Dick Wagner or Rod Gowen.

the next meeting was announced as october 10th, at the usual time and place.

COMMENTS ON COMPUSERVE

by: ROD GOWEN
    CIS# 70436,1542

CIS: That stands for:
COMPUSERVE INFORMATION SERVICE.
The definition is for those of you not familiar with the service.

BASICS-PART 6 SETTING UP YOUR OWN PERSONAL MENU.

How would you like to get your own personal menu whenever you log on to CIS? I'll tell you in this column how to go about it. As this is a short column, I must be brief. If there are any questions, feel free to call me at 655-7484.

There are a couple of ways to do the job. I will use what appears to be the easiest way.

STEP 1) Log on, at the first prompt type in 'GO TERMINAL'.
STEP 2) Choose the option to 'Change or Edit Personal Menu.
STEP 3) Choose the INSERT mode and enter the PAGE # of your first it page name & number.
STEP 4) You will enter 'END' to stop entering menu items.
STEP 5) As you leave this area, you will be asked if you wish to have the changes/insertions you have made used for only this visit or for all future visits. Choose the latter.

The page name and number is what you see at the upper right of your screen at all time. The main menu has the word 'TOP' in that spot. For Timex Sig, choose 'CLUB'.

By using this menu, you will save a lot of time and typing on future trips to CIS land.

NOTE: If you fail to log on for more than 30 days, your personal menu will be deleted.

NEXT TIME-We will look at how you set your user options. This will ensure that you can make the best use of CIS........

Hope to see you here-----

QL Qorner

Vince Lyon

To run this month's demo, have your QL in TV mode and a formatted cartridge in MDV1_.

Now we have a chance to look at a few of the facilities and commands we haven't explored before. Note line 35 (a%=k) which is the new QL method of assigning the INT command. When the program is run, you will notice that the QL always rounds properly without adding the .5 to the function as was necessary with the 2068.

The program then does some demos of the PAN and SCROLL commands, and a screen save and recall. If you run the program a second time, make sure to DELETE MDV1_display, since the QL will not automatically overwrite an existing file.

Now to some more serious business – I have been informed by my wife that my eyes are starting to look like two cherries in a glass of buttermilk. It seems that she thinks I spend too much time staring at a CRT trying to come up with little tidbits for the QL column. Since the only time available to me to write these ideas is usually after midnight, I guess she's probably right.

If this column is to survive, and my eyes return to normal, its essential that there be more input. Several past appeals have not generated any response, and I am about out of ideas to pursue. Your questions & comments, however, can give me a starting point for a column. So, If you want the QL CORNER to continue – **write us about something – anything.**

```
10 DEFine PROCedure show_int
15 PAPER 0:INK 7:BORDER 6,2,7
20 CLS:CLS #0
25 PRINT:PRINT
30 FOR k=1 TO 2 STEP .1
35 a%=k
40 PRINT TO 3;"k=";k;
45 INK a%+2
50 PRINT TO 2+(a%*10); "INT = ";a%
55 INK 7
60 END FOR k
65 PAUSE 240
70 END DEFine
75 DEFine PROCedure move_up
80 FOR k=1 TO 105
85 SCROLL -1
90 NEXT k
95 CLS
100 END DEFine
110 DEFine PROCedure move_down
115 FOR k=1 TO 135
120 SCROLL 1
125 END FOR k
130 CLS
135 END DEFine
140 DEFine PROCedure move_right
145 FOR k=1 TO 185
150 PAN 3
155 END FOR k
160 CLS
165 END DEFine
170 DEFine PROCedure do_display
175 CLS:CLS #0
180 BLOCK 70,130,10,10,5
185 BLOCK 300,10,85,70,2
190 BLOCK 20,120,35,15,3
195 AT 5,8:PRINT "THIS IS THE DISPLAY"
200 AT 12,10:PRINT "I WILL SAVE IT"
205 AT 15,15:PRINT "TO MDV1_"
210 END DEFine
215 DEFine PROCedure file_display
220 SBYTES mdv1_display,131072,32768
225 PRINT #0\\,,"NOW IT'S SAVED"
230 END DEFine
235 DEFine PROCedure recall_display
240 CLS #0
245 PRINT #0\\,,"I'M READY TO RECALL."
250 PAUSE 240
255 PAPER 0
260 BORDER 0,0
265 CLS:CLS #0
270 LBYTES mdv1_display,131072
275 END DEFine
300 show_int:move_up
305 show_int:move_down
310 show_int:move_right
315 do_display:file_display
320 PAUSE 360:CLS
325 recall_display
330 PRINT #0\\,"    END OF DEMO ";
```

LIBRARY NOTES

CCAT/S member James Edwards is our new LIBRARIAN. At this time details of handling check-outs & returns, availability of publications, etc are being worked out. Details at the October meeting.

PICNIC BYTES

by: ROD GOWEN

Well, did you miss the picnic? I was there. It did rain, and we did spend the day indoors, but who cares? All who showed up can attest to the fact that we had a good time!

If you did not make it, you missed a real nice get-together. Tim and Stephanie Woods, along with their new son, Tim Jr., opened up their home and new offices to all who wanted to come. I counted about 60 people around during the 5 hours of the open house. The occassion was the newly remodeled garage which will be the new home of Time Designs Magazine. After seeing the previous office, we know the true meaning of "claustrophobic"! They are going from about 6x8 ft. to 20x30 ft. A great improvement.

As the owner of RMG ENTERPRISES, I was asked to attend and bring some products to show. I carried a lot of hardware and software out and gave the people a lot to look at.

Tim gave recognition to the contrib- uting writers of Time Designs by giving all writers in attendance a giant candy bar, calling them "sweet". One of those writers, Mike DeSosa, was persuaded to do a short seminar on the qualities of the QL. I do believe that this was a high point in the day.

Members from both CCAT/S and PATS were invited and in attendance. Michael Carver of PATS, brought and demonstrated his music recognition set up. The computer flashes colors on the screen in response to music being played on a radio or tape.

A commitment was made by Tim and his wife Stephanie to hold a picnic again next year. We certainly hope that more of you can make it!

BITS & BYTES

by: ROD GOWEN

Heard any TS related news lately? Did you get any information in the mail from other users, user groups, or vendors that may be of interest to our readers? If so, why not share it with us? We need all of the help that we can get. Please send any info that you might have to: Rod Gowen, C/O CCAT/S, 1419 1/2 7th Street, Oregon City, OR 97045, or, phone in at: 503/655-7484, 10 AM- 10 PM weekdays. I know that the entire user group will appreciate it!

TIME DESIGNS MAGAZINE-had a real turn-out for the open house on Aug. 30th. Read the full report elsewhere in The Plotter. We wish them the best of luck with the magazine. Lets make sure we all support them.

ZEBRA SYSTEMS-what has become of you? We are hearing a lot of news, not all of it good. Poor service, lack of support, etc. We have not had any problems personally, so will reserve judgement. They have been very good in the past, let's hope that the come back.

A+ COMPUTER RESPONSE-has started to offer a QL in kit form through the dealer network. The price is sup- posed to be $139-149. The kit will include all of the parts to put a QL together with power supply and the Tech Guide. No manual or bundled software. The main board will carry a 90 day warranty. RMG is taking orders. The minimum dealer order is 25 kits. If RMG gets over 15 orders they will stock them. A great gift! Christmas is just around the corner!

ZX COMPUTING-magazine seems to be backstepping in its format a bit to more listings as it used to be. Not much yet, but maybe if we write to them they will get the message. We might even draft a letter and pass it around for signatures at the next meeting and let our local ZX dealer RMG, send it in for us!

4

CLONE-a program sold by RMG to make backup tapes for your own use has been in use for over a year and not many problems. A recent problem with the usage of that program may be of some interest if anyone else has had any trouble. If you have had a hard time getting a CLONEd program to load without "TAPE LOADING ERROR"s, the problem is NOT the program, but rather the tape and/or recorder. We have heard from Paul Hill of SINCUS user group, where the program came from, that this has been found to be the case in the few isolated incidents on record.

THE FD68 USER-newsletter will be in the club library from now on, as we voted to subscribe to it at the Aug. meeting. It is a quarterly nl that deals primarily with the Aerco FD68 disk system, but has a lot of material that is of general interest.

COMPUTER TRADER MAGAZINE-has been running quite a number of TS related articles, reviews and commentaries in recent issues. We have heard that Chet Lambert, the editor, said that the ratio of TS text to TS ads and letters is not favorable and that if it did not change soon, he would have to cut back the TS info. CAN WE AFFORD TO LOSE THIS INFO? I say "NO" to this! Subscribe NOW! New subs only: $4.95/yr. Cannot beat that anywhere.

RMG ENTERPRISES-will be taking orders for a "custom ROM/EPROM" for your 2068. It is a debugged ROM on an Eprom chip that will be customized if you desire. For instance: it will boot up with "THIS COMPUTER IS THE PROPERTY OF: JOHN SMITH" instead of "© 1983 Timex Corp" or whatever. The price will be about $18 plus shipping. There is some modification to the computer needed, a couple of trace cuts and a jumper put in. A new XROM replacement is also in the works. It will use most of the unused ROM room, giving you almost 12K of extra routines built-in. Such as: printer I/F driver sw, REM killer, RENUMBER and much, much more in the future. All will use a simple command: STEP a. "a" being any number from 1-255. Sounds GREAT to me! The price on these is not set as of now. Expect $30-40. More info later.

MARKETING INOVATIONS
Dick Wagner

There are several recently adopted marketing inovations for computer magazines. COMPUTE! magazine, published by ABC Consumner Magazines has hit the newzstands with COMPUTE! GAZETTE for $14.95 an issue. For this price the purchaser gets a 5 1/4 inch disk with all the magazine programs. COMPUTE! is also marketing Atari Disk and Magazine at $12.95 including a 3 1/2 inch disk with magazine programs. COMPUTE! caters to Atari, Commodore,TI, Apple, and IBM computers. Obviously these publications will be uninteresting to us T/S users as program sourse that can be converted to Sinclair BASIC. The publisher hopes that the heavy plastic sealed wrapper will reduce loss of the disk. The disk is also sealed into the magazine. It just might work, but how does the potential byer know what is in the magazine that will be of use?

BYTE POWER published by Byte Power, in Canada, is a magazine on cassette for the T/S 2068 computer. Of course this is available by mail. This magazine is issued monthly at $49.99 US for 12 issues. The publisher claims over 130 programs per year. These seem to be in wide rage of interests and they are mostly in machine language. See our SUM Magazine, June 1986 issue for details.

These examples indicate a try at putting out an 'electonic magazine'. I still have my issues of the old Syncro-sette magazine that issued a cassette with every other issue. The publisher couldn't produce that many programs continuously. I hope BYTE POWER can.

I find that reading large amounts of text on a monitor is difficult so articles may read the best by printing them out. I will see how this idea works out as I have ordered an issue. This will be demonstrated at a future meeting.

NEWSLETTER
REVIEW
Dick Wagner

The QZX JOURNAL 10 page publication
dedicated to the combination of T/S
computers and amatuer radio. It is
nicely printed on 8 pages 8 1/2 X
11. The subjects covered in the
issue I just received include
COMLINK 1, The ZX-81 on Packet
(radio), another packet success,
comments on 2 books, Bits & Bytes,
logic in BASIC, Revitalize those old
casttet tapes, and publishers
notes.

COMLINK 1 is a serial R 232 device
to connect the ZX-81 or T/S 1000 to
a packet (like a radio modem). It
does a lot of converting Sinclair
BASIC to ASCII. It is very aparent
that the ZX-81 is a popular computer
with these amatuer radio operators.
One reason that you get a lot for
the money and one can be dedicated
for a particular use.

For 39 cent stamp on a SASE envelope
you can get a sample copy. Write to
QZX Journal, 2025 O'Donnell Drive,
Las Cruces, NM 88001.

There are several amateur radio
operators in CCAT/S who just might
be interested in the journal at
$12.00 per year.

BOOK REVIEW:
TRS-80 COMPUTER REFERENCE BOOK
William Barden Jr.
Radio Shack $2.95
6 X 3 1/2 329 pages

If readers have looked at programs
for the TRS-80 computer line such as
are published in books and magazines
and wondered what some of those
special commands meant, then this
just might be the book you are
looking for. Machine code is not
included in the text but some
programs are likely candidates for
conversion as these computers use
the same machine code as the 2068
but addressing might be a problem
for people like me. There are 14
different computers referenced in
the book.

TRS/80 computers use BASIC language
altho each model is a little
different in command structure.
There are 317 commands, 1 per page,
and the computers using that command
is identified. Expressions and use
are also given. Description is short
and to the point. Some commands are
common to the 2068 computer.

Examples:
CSAVE & CLOAD apply to cassette use
RENAME applies to Color computer
disk
UP ARROW represents exponential
PRINT (depends on the computer)

A stop at a Radio Shack store will
give you a chance to see if this
book is a good value. My article on
comparing strings originated from
this book.

Dick Wagner

PROGRAMMING: DID YOU KNOW?

Dick Wagner

Most BASICs will compare strings as
to <,=,>, and combinations of these
operators. I was surprised to learn
that Sinclair BASIC will indeed do
this, that is, test one string
against another string by using
relational symbols. Try this simple
test with your 1000 or 2068
computer:

```
10 LET A$='ABC'
20 IF A$ > 'GO' THEN PRINT 'ABC IS
GREATER THAN GO'
30 IF 'GO+0'> A$ THEN PRINT' GO0 IS
GREATER THAN ABC'
40 IF 'SALLY' < 'GLENDA' THEN GO TO
1000
50 IF 'GLENDA'> 'SALLY' THEN GO TO
1010
1000 PRINT 'SALLY =  389 WHILE
GLENDA = 427'
1005 REM FOR T/S 1000 SALLY =  244
AND GLENDA = 265
1007 STOP
1010 PRINT 'GLENDA IS GREATER THAN
SALLY'
```
You will observe that this method
compares on the basis of character
weight in terms of ASCII value (or
TS 1000 character value). This also
works for comparing string arrays.

MAGIC NUMBERS

Dick Wagner

Combinations of numbers have interested mathematicions for hundreds of years. One such arrangement is called MAGIC SQUARE. There are also many such squares and all seem to be based on some math principal. A square is made up of rows and columns of numbers. This program asks for number of rows and columns (equal to make a square). Then the computer generates a square in which all rows and colums are equal when their numbers are added up. Sometimes the diagonals are also equal to the row or column sums.

This program is for the 1000 and 2068. The only difference is in line 200 where the up arrow means "to the power of" so ** is used with the other computers.

The print out is slow enough so you can see the sequence of numbers being printed.

```
  10 REM THERE MUST BE AN ODD NUM
BER OF COLUMNS/ROWS
 100 DIM M(9,9)
 110 PRINT AT 10,0;"NUMBER OF COL
UMNS/ROW ?"
 115 INPUT N
 120 CLS
 130 IF N/2=INT (N/2) THEN  GO TO
 110
 140 PRINT AT 0,0;" MAGIC NUMBERS
 ";AT 1,0;"   ROWS/COLUMNS."
 150 REM
 160 LET C1=0
 170 LET C=INT (N/2)+1
 180 LET R=1
 185 LET C1=C1+1
 190 PRINT AT R*2+1,C*3;C1
 200 IF C1=INT (N^2) THEN  GO TO
330
 210 IF C1/N<>INT (C1/N) THEN  GO
TO 240
 220 LET R=R+1
 230 GO TO 185
 240 LET C=C+1
 250 IF C<=N THEN  GO TO 290
 260 LET C=1
 270 LET R=R-1
 280 GO TO 185
 290 LET R=R-1
 300 COPY
 310 LET R=N
```

```
 320 GO TO 185
 330 LET T=0
 340 FOR I=1 TO N
 350 LET T=T+M(I,1)
 360 NEXT I
 370 PRINT AT 0,0;T
 375 STOP
 380 COPY
 390 PAUSE 250
 400 LLIST
 410 NEW
 415 REM CHANGE LINE 420 FOR YOUR
METHOD OF SAVE. THIS IS FOR MY 8
ISK SYSTEM
 420 SAVE /3
 430 RUN
```

U. S. FEDERAL COURT USING ZX-81,TS

Debra Ruth Wolin, a staff attorney for the United States District Court Southern District of New York, informs us that she has successfully used her 64K expanded Timex-Sinclair 1000 to solve an administration problem of the court's pro bono panel. She had to assign the right lawyer to the right case from a panel of volunteer lawyers willing to represent poor people in court without charge. She was assisted by Erica Jean Wolin, a sustems analyst for NYNEX service Co., who wrote a program which is basically search and sort with additional features built-in. The program stores various data about the panel members such as,type of case the member will take, date of last assignment, language ability and location (NY City or White Plains). To operate the program, Debra punches in the type of case, the location and any necessary language ability. The T/S computer returns a list of members in reverse chronological order of most recent assignment. Debra then assigns the case to the appropriate member.

Debra tells us she would be happy to share the program with any non-commercial user. If interested, please send a SASE to our club. She is a member for 2 years.

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